

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /065 W
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R 091720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7127

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00346

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XE, UK

SUBJECT: FCO OFFICIAL VISITS MONGOLIA, PRC, JAPAN, AND
KOREA

1. SUMMARY: FCO FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITED
CONSTITUENT POSTS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1974. MOST
INTERESTING RESULT WAS INDICATION OF SOME IMPROVEMENT IN
UK/PRC RELATIONS. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN MAY VISIT
CHINA IN 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW FCO FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT HEAD WILLIAM BENTLEY
VISITED CONSTITUENT POSTS, ULAN BATOR, PEKING, TOKYO AND
SEOUL, ON ORIENTATION TRIP IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. ON
JANUARY 9 HE GAVE US A REPORT ON VISIT. THERE WERE NO
SURPRISES EXCEPT FOR REPORT THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY
CALLAGHAN IS PLANNING TO VISIT CHINA.

3. CHINA. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT TO CHINA WAS CONVERSATION
WITH ACTING DIRECTOR OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN BUREAU OF MFA,
WHO SAID THAT PRC HAD ENJOYED WARM RELATIONS WITH
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"CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS" IN PREVIOUS BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND

THOUGHT THAT EQUALLY WARM RELATIONSHIP COULD BE HAD WITH "LABOR FRIENDS" OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IF THERE WERE BRITISH "RESPONSES" TO PRC. BENTLEY SAID THAT THERE NOW HAVE BEEN RESPONSES; FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN RECENTLY HAS HAD A MEETING WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR SUNG AND IT APPEARS THAT CALLAGHAN WILL BE INVITED TO VISIT CHINA EARLY IN 1976.

4. JAPAN. BENTLEY TIMED VISIT TO JAPAN TO COINCIDE WITH PRESENCE IN TOKYO OF SIR THOMAS BRIMELOW, PERMANENT

MINISTERS IN ANNUAL UK/JAPAN CONSULTATIONS. INTERESTING COMMENT HERE WAS BENTLEY'S OPINION THAT JAPAN WOULD HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN UK IF LATTER NOT A MEMBER OF COMMON MARKET.

5. KOREA. OUR CONVERSATION ON KOREA WAS FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE UK RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. THIS WAS MAIN ITEM RAISED BY SOUTH KOREANS WITH BENTLEY AND BRIMELOW. SUBSTANCE IS REPORTED SEPTEL.

6. MONGOLIA. NOTHING OF INTEREST TO REPORT ON MONGOLIA EXCEPT THAT HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENT OF NEW UK AMBASSADOR TO ULAN BATOR WAS DELAYED TWO WEEKS WITH RESULT THAT HIS ENTIRE SUPPLY OF THIRTY CASES OF WINE WAS FROZEN SOLID. BENTLEY SAID HE SAMPLED THE RE-LIQUIFIED WINE, WHICH WAS "DRINKABLE," BUT THAT MAIN PROJECT OF AMBASSADOR WILL BE TO USE UP REST OF 30 CASES BEFORE SUMMER WHEN THAW SETS IN.

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